

March 27, 2018

The Honorable Greg Walden
Chairman, House Energy and Commerce
Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6115

The Honorable Gregg Harper
Chairman, Subcommittee on Oversight and
Investigations
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-61

cc: The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr., Ranking Member, House Energy and Commerce Committee
cc: The Honorable Diana DeGette, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

Dear Chairman Walden and Chairman Harper,

Thank you for your interest in care for victims of sexual assault. We share your concern that these patients receive the right care delivered in a compassionate and timely way. In response to your questions about the availability of sexual assault forensic exams at Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital, we are providing the following responses:

1. **Does Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital employ SANEs or SAFE-certified medical professionals?** At Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital, we are committed to providing the best, most appropriate care and services to our communities, especially those who seek treatment for sexual assault. In Sonoma County, the District Attorney has established a forensic contract with the county hospital, Sutter Santa Rosa Regional Hospital, which details procedures on how to properly collect forensic evidence for victims of sexual assault. The contract instructs law enforcement to take patients who need a sexual assault examination directly to the designated facility, Sutter Santa Rosa Regional Hospital.

Importantly, this contract allows Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital to collaborate with Sutter Santa Rosa Regional Hospital, which employs Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners, Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners and performs rape kits. If a patient needing a sexual assault exam comes to Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital's emergency department, we ensure that person is transported directly to the Sexual Assault Response Team at Sutter Santa Rosa Regional Hospital for timely, expert treatment.

This collaboration between Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital and Sutter Santa Rosa Regional Hospital has worked well for our communities and has allowed us to serve anyone who is the victim of sexual assault.

2. **If Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital does employ SANEs:**

Questions a through g or not applicable.

3. **If Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital does not employ SANEs, does the Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital provide rape kits by non-SANEs?** No, our hospital does not provide rape kits by non-SANEs. We instead ensure that patients are directly transported to Sutter Santa Rosa Regional Hospital.

Questions a and b are not applicable.

4. **If a sexual assault victim comes to the Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital requesting treatment and/or a rape kit following an assault, what procedures are in place at the Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital to treat that victim? If Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital does not conduct a rape kit, SAFE certified or not, please include whether Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital has a relationship or agreement with another facility that does provide those services.**

Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital collaborates with Sutter Santa Rosa Regional Hospital, which has been designated by the District Attorney to provide rape kits and services to sexual assault victims. The manner in which most patients come to either facility is determined by law enforcement. Patients who report sexual assault are transported directly to the SART at Sutter Santa Rosa Regional Hospital.

Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital takes very seriously the treatment of sexual assault and the care of victims who come to us at such a vulnerable time. We have established procedures in our emergency department so that our clinicians can serve as first responders for sexual assault patients:

- A medical screening exam is done by a physician for every patient and law enforcement is notified of assault if an officer is not already present or aware.
- If patients are medically cleared, they are discharged and our emergency department notifies the Sheriff's office and arranges to have patients transported to Sutter Santa Rosa Regional Hospital's emergency department. That ED has a specially designated private area for a forensic exam and evidence collection. Patients age 18 and younger or dependent adults are taken to Redwood Children's Center on the second floor of the Family Justice Center located in Redwood City, Calif.
- If patients' injuries are determined to be traumatic (determined through the county destination guidelines) they would stay at Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital's emergency department. If they are too injured or unstable to discharge, a SANE/SAFE nurse will come to Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital to collect evidence.

5. **Does Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital track any data on sexual assault, such as the number of sexual assault victims treated each year, how many rape kits are requested, and how many rape kits are completed?**

Yes, we do track the number of sexual assault victims treated each year. In 2017, 20 sexual assault patients sought treatment at our hospital and were taken to Sutter Santa Rosa Regional Hospital where rape kits were completed.

We hope you found our feedback informative and helpful to your important enquiries. Thank you for your interest in these very vulnerable patients, and we stand ready to work with you on how to improve care even more in the future. If you have additional questions or need more information please contact Jacquelyn Bombard, director of federal relations, at (425) 525-3654 or via email at Jacquelyn.Bombard@providence.org.

Sincerely,

Kevin Klockenga
Executive Vice President
Northern California Region
Providence St. Joseph Health